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be braved to reach the posts on the shores of the great Arctic Bay of North America. On these bleak and wind-swept coasts stand the great "factories" or warehouses, where thousands of bales of blankets and cloth are stored, and where thousands of furs are annually brought for the overseas voyage to the London market. These tiny tokens conjure up visions of the long, long trails over which the dog sledges pass, and the icy streams filled with swift rapids that must be stemmed or portaged by the expert canoe men of the north, penetrating to regions where only the trader and the aborigines are found. They remind one of the dark forests and ice-bound plains whose fastnesses must be conquered, and most of all of the long cold winters in the log forts of the interior where the trader waits with what patience he may for the results of the patient trapping and persistent hunting of his dusky customers. And then in the spring, how the wilderness awakens, how long trains of Indians converge upon the traders' posts, and what days of bargaining, feasting, and relaxation ensue.

If one wishes to be reminded of the swiftness of Wisconsin's progress, it is only necessary to recall that only a century ago and for two centuries before that the only economic interest of Wisconsin was the fur trade; that our great state was then, like the northwest territories of the Canadian Dominion today, only a fur-bearing reserve where a few thousand red men hunted for peltry and a few score traders trafficked with the tribesmen in "skin way" or "money way," but always by barter for the rich harvest of furs.

LOUISE P. KELLOGG.

CHICAGO'S FIRST BOOM¹

Fort Dearborn

6. June 1835

* * *

every House in town is filled to overflowing, from Ten to Fifty arriving daily. Capt Hunter sold his Land here for 25 000 and the Bronsons have been offered 100.000. I suppose it will bring

¹The writer of this description of Chicago's first great real estate boom was Major DeLafayette Wilcox of the regular army who entered the service in 1812 and was stationed for a number of years at Fort Dearborn and other northwestern posts. The early portion of the letter, which we omit to print,

150.000. so you see what speculations are going on here, I am sorry that I made out so badly for you, but if you are disposed to trade on the 500. I have no doubt I can mak in 1000 in a year, or if you will make any one else here your agent they will be able to do the same; Lt Jameson received a commission from Maj Whiting last night to purchase to the amount of 1000 for him, the Lots are verry high but going higher every day. I have purchased one for 1000. and one for 200. since I sold the House my water Lot is worth about 4000 now, you may think that I talk too much about Lots; but there is an opportunity here of making something such as few Officers have, and I should feel that it would be wrong to neglect it. had I done so at first comeing here I should have had more money. now, I think it a positive duty lay up something for my Family; Monday 8. since Saturday morning one ship one Brig and Ten Schooners have come into Port; yesterday passengers were landing all day, say 200 landed, and about the same number on board the morning. on Saturday evening. M^r Walter Newberry one of the Bronson Firm, sold one Block of 8 Lots (which Doct Wolcot bought of the Canal Commissioners) for \$35.000. after the great Land sale here I intend to enter a Quarter Section and I will if you think proper enter one for you at the same time, say a half section in a body, I should like to get it near Juliet, it is a flourishing Village and I have three of four find Building Lots there; I wish you could be here this spring for a few days. I have just received your Letter of 30. May. the same Deed that I gave you will answer provided you assign it over to me in the presence of Witnesses, it will also require M^{rs} Saterlees name with yours, I should like to have it by return of Mail as I cannot get the money until I give a Deed. write me fully what I shall do for you, there is no danger in purchasing Lots at any price now, and none in purchasing Farms this will be a great State; an extra session of the Legislature is to be called this Fall, for the purpose of doing something for the canal, a new paper is to be published here, I expect the first nu[mber] today, if I can get in in season [ms. torn] I shall write to M^{rs} W next week again and [] request her to

has to do wholly with personal matters. The original manuscript is owned by Miss Marion Satterlee, of New York City, a granddaughter of Major Wilcox, to whom we are indebted for the copy here presented.

pay her Cousin Caroline agreeably to M^{rs} S request, my regards to her.

Yours Truly
D. Wilcox

Doct R. S. Saterlee
Fort Howard
Green Bay